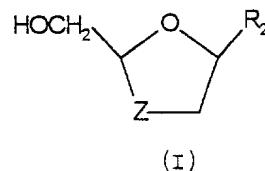


ABSTRACT

Disclosed are processes for preparing compounds of the formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof:



10 wherein R₂ is a purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue or derivative thereof; and Z is S, S=O or SO₂. The invention also relates to intermediates of use in the preparation of these compounds.